

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 02165 261124Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 /027 W
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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3874
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2165

MEXICO FOR RUDY HALL

MANILA FOR BJORLYKKE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, BM
SUBJ: TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT FOR BURMA AIR FORCE -- MOBILE FH-227

REF: (A) MEXICO 11869, (B) RANGOON 2022

1. THE INFORMATION IN REF A WAS PASSED TO BURMA AIR FRCE
COLONEL AIR STAFF KO GYI, WHO THEN MET WITH ACTING DCM FOR
FURTHER DISCUSSION.

2. COL. KO GYI CONFIRMED THAT THE GUB IS "VERY INTERESTED"
IN PURCHASING, WITH ITS OWN RESOURCES, THE MOBIL FH-227. HE
SAID THAT THIS AIRCRAFT COULD ARRIVE WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE
FOUR PIEDMONT FH-227'S BEING PROVIDED UNDER THE NCAP (HE
HOPED IT COULD ARRIVE WITHIN ABOUT THREE MONTHS), AND THUS
COULD HELP MEET URGENT AIR SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS FALL.
FURTHERMORE, HE HOPED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO SEND THE
BAF TRAINEES TO THE U.S. FOR TRAINING AT PIEDMONT, INCLUDING
OBSERVATION OF THE RE-COMMISSIONING PROCESS FOR THE
PIEDMONT FH-227'S, FOLLOWING WHICH THE TRAINEES COULD
SERVE AS A FERRY CREW TO FLY THE MOBIL FH-227 TO BURMA.
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THEN, USING THE MOBIL AIRCRAFT, THE TRAINING PROCESS
COULD CONTINUE HERE PENDING ARRIVAL OF THE PIEDMONT
AIRCRAFT FROM TAIWAN. FINALLY, COL. KO GYI MENTIONED
THAT IT WOULD BE A GREAT ADVANTAGE TO THE BAF TO HAVE
THE MOBIL FH-227 PURCHASED WITH GUB RESOURCES SO THAT IT
WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR USE ON OTHER THAN NARCOTICS-RELATED
MISSIONS.

3. COL. KO GYI PRESENTED A LIST OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MOBIL FH-227 WHICH HE NEEDS PRIOR TO BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS FOR ITS PURCHASE, AND ASKED OUR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THIS INFORMATION FOR HIM. THE LIST FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.

4. NOTING THAT THE GUB IS ANXIOUS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE MOBIL AIRCRAFT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, COL. KO GYI REQUESTED OUR HELP IN ARRANGING SUCH NEGOTIATIONS. HE WONDERED IF A SALES REPRESENTATIVE "WITH FULL AUTHORITY TO DO THE TRANSACTION" COULD COME TO RANGOON. IF NOT, HE ASKED HOW THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEST BE CONDUCTED. ADCM AGREE TO QUERY THE DEPARTMENT ON THIS MATTER. (ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE RESPOND.) COL. KO GYI CONFIDED THAT THE GUB WANTED TO PAY NO MORE THAN \$1 MILLION FOR "THE WHOLE PACKAGE," AIRCRAFT AND SPARES.

4. IN CLOSING, COL. KO GYI PRESENTED A LIST OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ON THE PIEDMONT AIRCRAFT AND A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF THE BAF'S DETAILED TRAINING REQUIREMENTS (SEPTELS FOLLOW). HE ALSO ASKED THAT IF POSSIBLE RUDY HALL VISIT RANGOON WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON ALL OF THESE MATTERS. ADCM AGREED TO FORWARD THESE REQUESTS. (ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A HALL VISIT.)

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5. COMMENT: WE SEE CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE FOR BOTH US AND THE GUB IN THE GUB'S PROPOSED PURCHASE OF THE MOBIL FH-227. NOT ONLY WOULD IT BE OF POTENTIAL HELP IN ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS, PARTICULARLY THIS FALL, BUT ALSO IT WOULD REDUCE ANY POSSIBLE TEMPTATION FOR THE GUB TO USE THE AIRCRAFT PROVIDE UNDER THE NCAP FOR MISSIONS NOT RELATED TO NARCOTICS. (TO DATE THE GUB'S RECORD IN THIS REGARD HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY.) THEREFORE, AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 5 OF REF A, WE FAVOR ASSISTING THE GUB TO THE DEGREE POSSIBLE IN OBTAINING A FAVORABLE PRICE AND EXPEDITIOUS DELIVERY.

6. ALTHOUGH IT MAY NOT BE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, WE ALSO SEE UTILITY IN A HALL VISIT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. THIS COULD FACILITATE THE MOBIL DEAL AND FIRM UP ARRANGMENTS FOR TRAINING AND MODIFICATIONS CONNECTED WITH THE NCAP PIEDMONT AIRCRAFT, AS WELL AS PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION OF THE PARAMETERS OF HALL'S PROSPECTIVE ASSIGNMENT HERE LATER THIS YEAR.
BARTLEY

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